

Death of a black business

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ing to buy the store, and whether BP approves or opts

to tear the station down, she will open another business. She said, "I'm going to do

what I was planning to do when I bought the gas station."

Wedding bells ring for planners

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profitable. She wants people to be assured that this is a huge industry.

"We've had folks from college graduates to empty nesters," Howard said.

But there is one group of people the program has not seen yet - men. That is until now. Troy-Mebane's husband, Terry, will be the first man to participate in the program after launching his business, Forgotten Groom. Neither have given up their full-time jobs, but hope to one day.

"We kind of joined forces and he's offering specialized groom services," Troy-Mebane said.

"I think everyone should own a company," Howard said. "Because nothing in corporate American is guaranteed anymore."

Both Troy-Mebane and Howard believe HeartString's benefits are infinite. Howard said more clients are inquiring and asking questions about con-

sultants' formal training. "These skills are transferable to any type of event," Howard said.

The program offers one class session that teaches students how to develop a contract, a fee structure and close deals - all necessary acumen for the average businessperson.

Troy-Mebane liked the fact that the university allowed her to network and even taught her how.

"It gave me the opportunity to develop relationships with people who are established as well as just starting off," she said.

From caterers to musicians, each class during the program introduces a new vendor within the city of Charlotte to provide information from different aspects of weddings. This gives students the opportunity to learn from those who offer their services for the ceremonies.

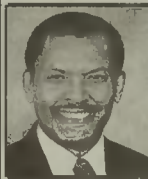
"We only bring the best of the best to the wedding uni-

versity to teach," Howard said.

Each class is held at a different location in the area that is believed to be ideal for future event planning. Troy-Mebane plans to use one of those venues, the Botanical Gardens, for one of her clients who is looking forward to over 200 guests for her upcoming wedding. Her clientele also consists of a smaller wedding of about 40 people and Troy-Mebane said one of the most valuable lessons she's learned from the course is to pay attention to the wants and needs of the bride and groom.

"Listening and making sure you and the client are on the same page of music [is most important]," she said.

Classes are held four months out of the year on Saturdays. To register for an information session or if you'd like additional details of the 2006 program, call Wialillian Howard at (704) 376-9476 or email at wiaandco@yahoo.com.



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Dr. Carl Arrington, Director of Market Expansion

The Power of Change

Sooner or later, most of us will come to a place in life in which we want to see something different happening in our lives. This is especially true for those of us who have identified the dreams that we have for ourselves.

Ironically, for most of us, even those of us who know we want something different for our lives, there is something that we all have a tendency to resist. **That common factor is change.** No matter who we are, most of us do not like the idea of having to change. We want our lives to be different, but at the same time we would love to be able to get what we really want out of life without having to change.

Of course, that is not possible. There is no way to improve our lives or go after our dreams without a willingness to embrace change. When we were younger, the idea of change was not as threatening as it seems to us as we grow older.

But change does not have to be difficult or threatening. As we seek to make our dreams come true, we have to

keep in mind how strongly we want our dreams. If we keep that into perspective, we realize that the change we must accept is simply a tool for us in achieving our goals. Another key to achieving our dreams is realizing that change is a natural part of growth.

If you are not achieving the dreams that you have for yourself, it may be that you are resisting change. Take a look at what is happening. It may be that what you are doing needs to be changed. Check with those who have some insight into what you are trying to achieve. It may be that you need to do something different from what you are currently doing. It could be a very small change that could make all the difference for you. They could very well be able to show you a new approach that can help you to get going.

Open yourself to the possibility of change. It can be a powerful force. Rather than seeing change as a threat, think of it as an opportunity to build the life that you have always wanted.

Nigeria challenges big oil

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Climate Justice Program which encourages the enforcement of law internationally to combat climate change, and Friends of the Earth Nigeria say approximately 2.5 billion cubic feet of gas associated with crude oil is wasted through gas flaring everyday.

This is equal to 40 percent of all of Africa's natural gas consumption in 2001, while the annual financial loss to Nigeria is approximately 2 billion euros (2.5 billion dollars).

Che Ibegwura from Erema in the Niger Delta highlighted the social costs for Nigerians living in that region.

"Our farmlands have been polluted. We labor hard to plant but little comes out. Our roofs are corroded. Our air is polluted. Our children are

sick. Even the rainwater we drink is contaminated with black soot from the gas flares. We cannot continue with this

suffering. We need to take legal action to protect ourselves, our children and our future," she said.

Intel chips

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What caused the bump in the roadmap? Depends on whom you ask. Jobs said at the conference that IBM never delivered a chip that could power a 3 gigahertz machine, which he promised would happen. Powerbooks, Apple's laptops, were also prone to overheating, again because of the IBM chips, according to Jobs.

Some nameless IBM officials have reportedly said Jobs and Apple would come up with the cash to develop a more efficient chip for its computers. No cash, no results, said Big Blue.

So what happens between now and January when Apple may start shipping these Intel-powered Macs? Everyone's mum. Employees at Apple's posh stores aren't allowed to comment to the media, but they may be worried. Consumers may hold off purchases of new Macs until the faster and maybe cheaper computers are ready. And there's always the worry that current machines will be obsolete and not be supported by the company.

Who benefits the most from this switch? Consumers, eventually. Macs may become faster and cheaper and open themselves up to Windows-based games. The Intel move could also get a larger audience to warm up to Macs, especially if they become more Windows friendly. For Mac diehards, that's a scary thought but if the past holds any answers to these questions one thing should be clear - it'll still be a Mac, just with an Intel chip.

Contact Dr. Arrington for details. 704-591-1988 cla@maximumsuccess.com

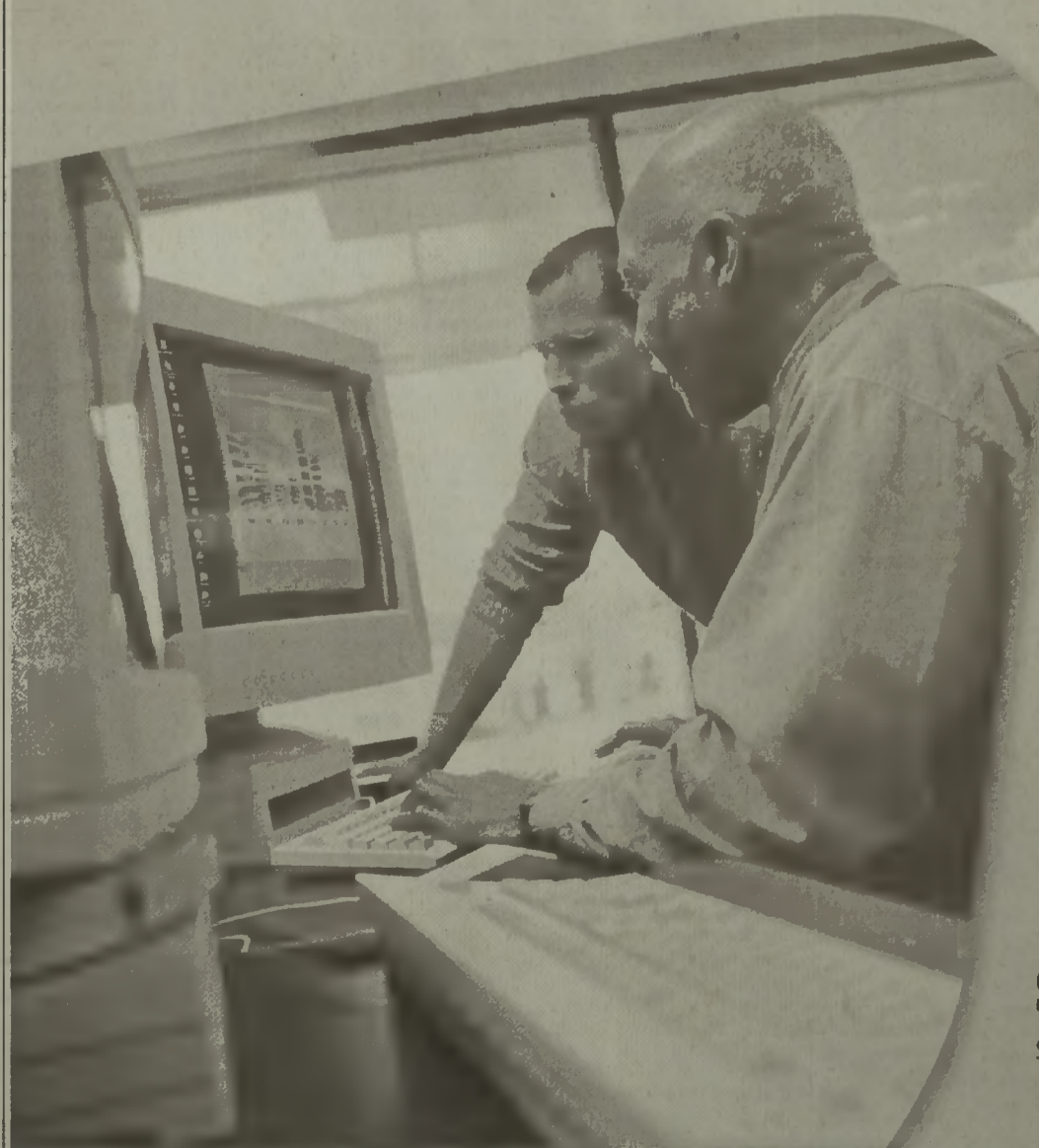
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